WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A vinyl ester resin composition comprising a compound having the following chemical structure of Formula VIII:

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Formula VIII

$$O=P$$
 $CH_2CH(OH)CH_2R^1$
 R

wherein R in Formula VIII is independently a hydrogen or a C_1 - C_{40} alkyl group and R^1 is an unsaturated functionality.

- 2. The composition of Claim 1 wherein R is hydrogen.
- 3. The composition of Claim 1 wherein R is a methyl group.

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- 4. The composition of Claim 3 wherein R is in the 5 position of the phenyl ring.
- 5. The composition of Claim 1 wherein R¹ is a moiety having the following formula:

$$\begin{array}{c} O \\ \parallel \\ -OC - C = C \\ R''' \end{array}$$

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where R'' is a hydrogen or an alkyl group from C_1 - C_{20} and R'' is hydrogen, an alkyl group from C_1 - C_{20} , or a carboxylic acid group or ester derivatives thereof.

6. The composition of Claim 5 wherein R¹ is a methacrylate, an acrylate, a maleate, or a fumarate.

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7. A process for preparing an epoxy vinyl ester resin comprising reacting (a) a compound of Formula V

Formula V

$$O=P$$
 R
 A

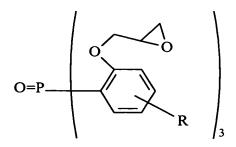
wherein R in Formula V is independently a hydrogen or a C₁-C₁₀ allyl group, with (b) a carboxylic acid which contains an unsaturated functionality to produce the compound as shown in the following chemical structure of Formula VIII:

Formula VIII

$$O=P$$
 $CH_2CH(OH) CH_2R^1$
 R

- wherein R in Formula VIII is independently a hydrogen or a C₁-C₁₀ allyl group and R¹ is a moiety containing an unsaturated functionality.
- 8. The process of Claim 7 wherein the composition of Formula V is an isomer mixture of two or more different triaryl phosphine oxide isomer compounds having the general chemical structural formula of Formula V:

Formula V



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wherein R is a methyl group.

- 9. The process of Claim 8 wherein at least one of the isomers in the isomeric mixture contains a 2-glycidyloxy-4-methylphenyl moiety.
- 10. The process of Claim 8 wherein at least one of the isomers in the isomeric mixture contains 2-glycidyloxy-5-methylphenyl moiety.
- 11. The process of Claim 8 wherein the isomeric mixture contains at least a mixture of a 2-glycidyloxy 4-methylphenyl moiety and a 2-glycidyloxy-5-methylphenyl moiety.
 - 12. The process of Claim 11 wherein the ratio of 2-glycidyloxy 4-methylphenyl moiety to 2-glycidyloxy-5-methylphenyl moiety is from about 99:1 to about 1:99.
 - 13. The process of Claim 7 wherein the carboxylic acid is an acrylic acid, a methacrylic acid, a maleic acid or a furmaric acid.